

National Agricultural Research, Extension Education, and Economics Advisory Board

CHARTER

1. Committee's Official Designation

The committee shall be known as the National Agricultural Research, Extension Education, and Economics Advisory Board; hereafter referred to as the Board or NAREEE Advisory Board.

2. Authority

The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (Board) is hereby established pursuant to Section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123), as amended by Section 802 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998. The Board was reauthorized by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, and then extended through September 30, 2013, by the American Tax Payer Relief Act of 2012. Most recently, the NAREEE Advisory Board was reauthorized through September 30, 2018, by the Agricultural Act of 2014, Public Law 113-79 Sec. 7102 (a). This charter renews the NAREEE Board in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. App.

3. Objectives and Scope of Activities

The purpose of the Advisory Board is to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and its land-grant universities, and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate on research, extension, education, and economics policies, priorities, and the results of effectiveness of those policies and priorities. In addition, it will provide customer input in forming the Research, Education, and Economics mission area's Strategic and Performance Plans.

4. Description of Duties

a. The specific responsibilities of the Board are to:

1. Review and provide consultation to the Secretary of Agriculture, land-grant colleges and universities, and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate on:
 - a. long-term and short-term national policies and priorities, as set forth in Section 1402 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 as amended (7 U.S.C. 3101), relating to agricultural research, extension, education, and economics; and
 - b. the annual establishment of priorities that-
 - i. are in accordance with the purposes specified in a provision of a covered law (as defined in subsection (d) of section 1492) under which competitive grants (described in subsection (c) of such section) are awarded; and
 - ii. the Board determined are national priorities.
2. Evaluate the results and effectiveness of agricultural research, extension, education, and economics with respect to the policies and priorities;
3. Review and make recommendations to the Under Secretary of Agriculture for REE on the research, extension, education, and economics portion of the strategic and performance plans required under Section 306 of Title 5, United States Code;
4. Review the mechanisms of USDA for technology assessment (which should be conducted by qualified professionals) for the purposes of:
 - a. Performance measurement and evaluation of the implementation by the Secretary of the strategic plan required under Section 306 of Title 5, United States Code;
 - b. Implementations of the national research policies and priorities set forth in Section 1402 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy of 1977; and
 - c. The development of mechanisms for the assessment of emerging public and private agricultural research and technology transfer initiatives.
 - d. Provide consultation to the Secretary of Agriculture in establishing the merit review procedures required by Section 103(a)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 for the agricultural extension or education grants administered on a competitive basis by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), USDA;

5. On an annual basis, review a) the relevance to the priorities established under Section 102(a) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act (AREERA) of 1998 for agricultural research, extension, and education activities conducted or funded by the USDA; and b) the adequacy of the funding;
6. Receive results of panel reviews of all research activities conducted under each research program of the Department for scientific merit and relevance (Section 103(d) of AREERA).
- b. The Executive Committee is to work with the Secretary of Agriculture and officers of the USDA to summarize and disseminate the recommendations of the Advisory Board. The Executive Committee carries out activities approved by the Advisory Board at the public meetings.

5. Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports

The Board through the Research, Education, and Economics (REE) will report to the Secretary.

6. Support

Support to the Board will be provided by REE's management and support staff.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years

- a. Members of the Board shall serve without compensation if they are not otherwise officers or employees of the Federal Government. Reimbursement will be provided for travel and per diem expenses at authorized Board meetings.
- b. Estimated annual operating costs for the Board are not more than \$500,000, including at least two full-time employees and other necessary expenses of the Board for each fiscal year.

8. Designated Federal Officer

A permanent Federal employee is to be appointed in accordance with agency procedures and will serve as the Designated Federal Official (DFO). The DFO will approve the advisory committee's and subcommittees' meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all committee and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the advisory committee reports.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings

It is estimated that the Board will meet approximately twice a year. Subcommittees of the Board may meet at the request of the Chairman in consultation and approval of the DFO. Other special meetings may be scheduled by the Board or Executive Committee each year to carry out the Board's responsibilities.

10. Duration

Continuing.

11. Termination

The NAREEE Board will only terminate according to the provisions in accordance with the Final Rule (41 CFR 102-3.105 (e)).

12. Membership and Designation

12a. This Committee will be fairly balanced in its membership in terms of the points of view represented and the functions to be performed. Steps will be taken to encourage fresh points of view, such as establishing staggered membership terms and limiting the number of renewed memberships.

12b. The Board shall be composed of 25 Representative members appointed by the Secretary (with equal representation, to the maximum extent practicable, of public and private sector members), and the following shall serve as ex-officio members: the Secretary of Agriculture; the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics (REE); the Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS); the Administrator of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA); the Administrator of the Economic Research Service (ERS); and the Administrator of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

12c. Of these members, one will become the chairperson who is recognized for his or her ability to lead a group in a fair and focused manner and who has been briefed on the mission of this Committee. A vice-chairperson may be assigned, especially to facilitate his or her transition to become the chairperson in the future. For the NAREEE Board, the Board Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and seven additional members shall be elected by the Board from its members to serve on the Executive Committee.

12d. Ethics Statement

To maintain the highest levels of honesty, integrity and ethical conduct, no Committee or subcommittee member shall participate in any “specific party matters” (i.e., matters are narrowly focused and typically involve specific transactions between identified parties) such as a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, grant, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct or indirect financial interest. This includes the requirement for Committee or Subcommittee members to immediately disclose to the DFO (for discussion with USDA’s Office of Ethics) any specific party matter in which the member’s immediate family, relatives, business partners or employer would be directly seeking to financially benefit from the Committee’s recommendations.

All members will receive ethics training to identify and avoid any actions that would cause the public to question the integrity of the Committee’s advice and recommendations. Members who are appointed as “Representatives” are not subject to

Federal ethics laws because such appointment allows them to represent the point(s) of view of a particular group, business sector or segment of the public.

Members appointed as “Special Government Employees” (SGEs) are considered intermittent Federal employees and are subject to Federal ethics laws. SGE’s are appointed due to their personal knowledge, academic scholarship, background or expertise. No SGE may participate in any activity in which the member has a prohibited financial interest. Appointees who are SGEs are required to complete and submit a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report (OGE-450 form) and, upon request, USDA will assist SGEs in preparing these financial reports. To ensure the highest level of compliance with applicable ethical standards USDA will provide ethics training to SGEs on an annual basis. The provisions of these paragraphs are not meant to exhaustively cover all Federal ethics laws and do not affect any other statutory or regulatory obligations to which advisory committee members are subject.

12e. Equal Opportunity Statement

Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, will be followed in all membership appointments to the committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

13. **Subcommittees**

The agency and the chair, through the DFO, has the authority to create subcommittees. Subcommittees including working groups and ad-hoc committees must report back to the parent committee, and must not provide advice or work products directly to the Secretary. The Subcommittees under the NAREEE Board:

- Citrus Disease Subcommittee
- National Genetic Resources Advisory Council Subcommittee
- Relevance and Adequacy Subcommittee
- Renewable Energy Committee
- Specialty Crop Committee

14. **Recordkeeping**

Administrative support of the Board is provided by the ARS, USDA. The Board is funded by the agencies of the mission area (ARS, ERS, NASS, and NIFA).

The Executive Director provides the Advisory Board and its subunits with administrative assistance necessary to carry out their mandated responsibilities and relevant activities, and facilitates and coordinates all of the Board’s activities to ensure that proper planning, programs, and reports are carried out effectively and efficiently.

The Board advises the Secretary of Agriculture, the land-grant colleges and universities and the appropriate Congressional committees. The records of this Committee, formally

and informally established subcommittees, or other subgroups of the committee, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552. Information about this Committee is available online at:

<http://nareeeab.ree.usda.gov/>

15. Filing Date

July 7, 2015